

## REMARKS

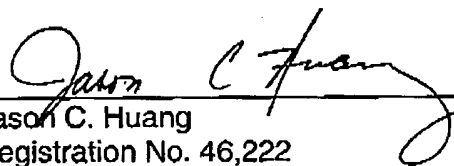
This is intended as a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement dated August 7, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on September 7, 2003. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

- I. Claims 1-9, drawn to a coupling, classified in class 411, subclass 427.
- II. Claims 10-23, drawn to a method of making a coupling, classified in class 470, subclass 18.

The Applicant respectfully elects Group 1, claims 1-9, drawn to a coupling. Applicant's have cancelled claims 10-23.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the allowance of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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